

## Ranking Category–Upland Game Birds

### Primary Resource Concerns–

- Fish and Wildlife–Habitat Fragmentation
- Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Cover/Shelter
- Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Food
- Fish and Wildlife–Inadequate Water
- Fish and Wildlife–Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern
- Fish and Wildlife–T&E Fish and/or Wildlife

### Eligible Land Uses–

- Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Pasture, and Wildlife

### Additional Considerations for this Category–

- Historically underserved farmers/ranchers (HUs) are eligible for a higher payment rate.
- HUs (Limited Resource Farmers/Ranchers, Beginning Farmers/Ranchers or Socially Disadvantaged Farmers/Ranchers) may apply under the ranking category specific to their resource concern or the ranking category specifically for their historically underserved group but not both because the resource concerns and land are the same.
- Field offices shall designate HIGH PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on CRP that expired on or after September 30, 2008, and LOW PRIORITY for applications scheduling perimeter or boundary fence on CRP that expired on or before September 30, 2007. All applications shall have a priority designation of either HIGH or LOW. Applications that do not have perimeter or boundary fence scheduled shall be designated HIGH PRIORITY.

### State Issues–

Answer ONE of the following questions related to the Kansas Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) priority concerns. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- 1(a) Will the WHIP Plan of Operations (WPO) meet the minimum requirements for a priority species of statewide concern (pheasants, northern bobwhite quail, greater or lesser prairie-chicken) based on Kansas WHIP Species Specific Habitat Assessment? (40 points)
- 1(b) Will the WPO restore or enhance critical habitat for T&E species or provide habitat for species in need of conservation (SINC)? (40 points)
- 1(c) Will the WPO restore, enhance and/or create priority natural communities (wetlands, prairie, or riparian areas)? (30 points)
- 1(d) Will the WPO target priority species of statewide concern but not meet the minimum habitat requirements for those species, based on the Kansas Species Specific Habitat Assessment? (10 points)
- 1(e) Will the WPO address habitat for non-priority species? (5 points)

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Answer ONE of the following questions related to native grass. If none apply leave the answers “NO”:

- 2(a) Will the WPO acres include an existing stand of native grass that is greater than or equal to 80 acres? (50 points)
- 2(b) Will the WPO acres include an existing stand of native grass that is between 21 and 79.9 acres? (20 points)
- 2(c) Will the WPO acres include a native grass seeding or an existing stand of native grass that is less than or equal to 20.9 acres? (10 points)

Answer the following question related to the priority wildlife species and brush management:

- 3(a) Will the WPO acres address brush management for the priority wildlife species on all of the applicable WPO acres on Kansas grasslands? (10 points)

What level of infestation of a tree species with invasive potential is present (refer to Section IV of electronic Field Office Technical Guide [eFOTG], Conservation Practice (CP) 314, Brush Management, Construction Specifications, Table 2, for percentages)?

- 4(a) None to low infestation (50 points)
- 4(b) Medium level of infestation (25 points)
- 4(c) High level of infestation (10 points)

Answer the following question related to the use of prescribed fire, if applicable:

- 5(a) Will CP 338, Prescribed Burning, be included in the WPO to improve habitat for the priority species? (50 points)

Answer the following question related to native grass mix plantings:

- 6(a) Will the WPO include vegetative establishment on greater than or equal to 20.0 acres, meeting CP 550, Range Planting? (30 points)
- 6(b) Will the WPO include vegetative establishment on greater than or equal to 10.0 acres but less than 20.0 acres, meeting CP 550, Range Planting? (20 points)
- 6(c) Will the WPO include vegetative establishment on less than 10.0 acres meeting CP 550, Range Planting? (10 points)

How many complementary conservation programs, other than WHIP, are actively managed for wildlife on the applicant's land or land adjacent to the WPO acres? If none apply, leave the answers “NO” (other complementary conservation programs include Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP], Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program [FRPP], Grassland Reserve Program [GRP], Wetlands Reserve Program

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[WRP], Conservation Reserve Program [CRP], Continuous CRP [CCRP], Conservation Security Program [CSP 2002], Conservation Stewardship Program [CSP 2008], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] Partners for Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT's) Walk-In Access [WIHA], KDWPT's Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats [FISH], or other similar programs):

- 7(a) 4 complementary programs actively present (15 points)
- 7(b) 3 complementary programs actively present (11 points)
- 7(c) 2 complementary programs actively present (8 points)
- 7(d) 1 complementary programs actively present (6 points)

Answer the following question related to the WPO acres:

- 8(a) Are the WPO acres adjacent to property with long-term (greater than ten years) conservation easements that are actively managed for wildlife? (10 points)

Answer the following question if and only if there is another partner's financial assistance contribution:

- 9(a) Is the partner's financial assistance contribution to the WPO greater than or equal to 10 percent? (10 points)

### **Local Issues–**

Answer the following question related to the planned habitat improvement score from the eFOTG Kansas Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guide (KWHAG):

- 1(a) Will the planned habitat value improvement score from the KWHAG meet the minimum threshold for the location of the offered acres (West-18; Central- 21; East- 24). (20 points)

Answer the following question related to wetland habitat, if applicable:

- 2(a) Will the WPO acres include a shallow water development area or a wetland development area of less than 10 acres in size, that includes either an existing or planned buffer of native grass at least 30 feet wide? (15 points)

Answer the following question related to KDWPT's Quail Initiative, if applicable:

- 3(a) Will the WPO meet the minimum habitat requirements for northern bobwhite quail AND does at least 50 percent of the WPO acres fall within the Quail Focus areas in southeast Kansas (see KDWPT Quail Initiative Area map)? (10 points)